



# Arizona Department of Transportation

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

### MEMORANDUM

**To:** MPO and COG Directors

**Date:** February 1, 2006

**From:** Jim Dickey, Director, PTD

**Subject:** State Public Transportation Update

Hello COG and MPO Directors:

It's been just a short time, but I want to share with you a variety of updated and/or new information about public transportation. Most of it good news! And a special thanks to Rich Gaar and Eugene Weeks for hosting a great Rural Transportation Summit and for allowing ADOT PTD to make a presentation.

**Federal Transit Administration Appropriations Statewide:** Attached is a worksheet that characterizes the overall statewide FTA appropriations, including the 1% across the board reduction. As you can see, statewide allocations in most all categories have improved. For more details, contact *Mark Hoffman*.

**5310/5311/RTAP/5304 (5313) Program Allocations:** With the publication of the state allocations, ADOT has developed some target estimated funding amounts for each of these programs. Here is a quick summary of those allocation estimations, which we'll use as targets for budgeting programs over the next year:

<b><u>Program Component</u></b>	<b><u>2006-07 Estimate</u></b>	<b><u>2005-2006 Expenditure</u></b>	<b><u>% Change</u></b>
5310 Capital	\$3,248,000	\$2,615,000	24%
Pilot Program	\$450,000	NA	NA
5311 Capital	\$3,178,000	\$927,801	242%
Admin	\$1,250,000	\$903,000	38%
***Operations	\$3,000,000	\$2,300,000	30%
**Reserve	\$963,000		NA
RTAP Training	\$109,800	\$90,300	21%
5304 (5313) Planning****	\$878,000	\$178,520	392%

\*Anticipated Award for Pilot program to fund an operating component

\*\*Flexible reserve based upon program application reviews

\*\*\*Includes intercity transit requirements

\*\*\*\*Includes un-obligated past years grant funding

These 2006-2007 allocations include spending down some previously unspent (old grant) funds, with a strategy of making one time capital investments while protecting operations and administration program growth over many years. Once applications are received, ADOT will determine the match requirements necessary on capital projects. We will do our

best to minimize match requirements within the flexibility of fund sources. By the way, see below for additional program allocations. For more details, contact *Jim Dickey*

**5310 Program Application Schedule:** The program application process for the Elderly and Disabilities Transportation program is now underway. Below is a schedule of meetings in the COG/MPO areas to kick off the application process. Please be sure to take advantage of one of these meetings to understand application guidelines and schedule.

CAAG	February 6	10-12	Superior
NACOG/FMPO	February 7	1-3	Flagstaff (includes CYMPO)
WACOG	February 10	10-12	Kingman
YMPO	February 13	1-3	Yuma
MAG	February 14	9:30-12	Phoenix
PAG	February 15	1-3	Tucson
SEAGO	February 16	1-3	Benson (Comm. Coll.)

It is planned that April 28, 2006, will be the application deadline for this program! For more details, contact *Gregg Kiely*.

**5311 Program Application Schedule:** Application guidelines and procedures meetings for the Rural Transportation Program are now complete. Prospective applicants should be working feverishly on completing their applications by February 21, 2006. The review panels in order for applicants to make program presentations will be in March. For more details, contact *Sam Chavez*.

**AzRides:** Arizona Rides second phase, an implementation phase, is the subject of a pending ADOT grant request for additional funding, focused on supporting COG and MPO efforts at the most local levels. We hope to hear a response to our application very soon. In the meantime, Pinal Rides has completed its initial study effort and made specific recommendations in training, maintenance, and service provision. A detailed presentation was made to the Board of Supervisors in Eloy just last week. AND, the Council is doing three background White Papers on significant policy issues...some of you may get an inquiry from ADOT's consultant Rick Evans about issues like liability insurance, driver training, and vehicle maintenance. For more details, contact *Jim Dickey* or *Gregg Kiely*.

**JARC and New Freedom Programs:** As you know, JARC, a long standing program focusing on work-related transportation, and New Freedoms, an expansion of services to disabled and disadvantaged persons beyond the ADA, are both in rule-making to help clarify the formula distribution methodology. Both programs bring additional resources to Arizona, and the distribution methodology is based upon a 60-20-20 split of available funds between Large MPOs/Small MPOs/State Rural entities. Administration of the program requires some further clarification and we are awaiting clarification before we move forward with a program administration plan.

Check out the attached FTA Federal Appropriations worksheet for details on these two programs for our state and others. For more details, contact *Jim Dickey*.

**Potential New Rural Transportation Program Studies:** PTD staff has met with several communities to discuss potential rural transportation programs, including the following. Contact *Matt Carpenter* for more details.

- Safford Feasibility and Implementation Study We are negotiating with Safford and its neighbors including drafting an IGA and developing a draft Scope of Work to qualify our efforts to identify rural transportation services
- Nogales Feasibility and Implementation Study: the City of Nogales has committed match funding to conduct a feasibility and implementation plan for rural transportation program services there. We have provided a draft IGA and scope of work for the area including Rio Rico.
- City of Maricopa: PTD met with staff from the City of Maricopa to discuss its transit needs as it relates to internal and connector services to the Phoenix metropolitan region.

**National Transit Data Base Reporting:** Attached please find a memorandum outlining the responsibilities that ADOT assumes on behalf of the 5311 Rural Transportation Programs to report operating and financial data. We will begin this reporting process effective with this current state FY. It's not terribly burdensome, but will require reporting some additional data. We'll be sure to discuss these specific things with 5311 properties in an upcoming AzTA Annual Conference session. Talk to *Sam Chavez* for more details.

**Other Efforts on the Horizon:** PTD is preparing for several other efforts during this new calendar year, some of which are identified below:

- State Rail Inventory and Assessment: As an update to a 2000 effort, PTD and TPD have now completed a project plan outline and are preparing a scope of work to retain a consultant to complete a baseline assessment of all of the state's current rail infrastructure, including its condition, its usage, and any short-range plans to improve it, in cooperation with several other state and regional partners. For more details, contact *Marc Pearsall*.
- Regional Transit Connector Services: Four pilot services were identified, and all four will be in operation by late Spring 2006, including Ajo/Gila Bend-Phoenix (March, 05), Green Valley/Sahuarita to Tucson (February 6, 2006),

Wellton-Yuma, (January 30, 2006) and Kachina Village to Flagstaff (February, 06). Ribbon cutting ceremonies for Wellton-Yuma will be at the Wellton Library on February 14 at 10:00 A. Ribbon cutting ceremonies for Green Valley/Sahuarita-Tucson will be at Green Valley Mall on February 17 at 1:00 P. For more information, contact *Matt Carpenter*.

- Website: The PTD website is becoming a tool and a resource for each of you. You will find archived studies and reports, updates on current programs and efforts, and information about the Public Transportation Division and staff. Check it out at [www.azdot.gov/PTD](http://www.azdot.gov/PTD). And check out the updated Calendar for PTD events of significance. For more details, contact *Mark Hoffman*.
- PTD is currently in the interview process for two positions to support your needs: a full time RTAP/Trainer position under the direction of *Sam Chavez*, and a Coordinated Transportation Specialist, to support the AzRides program under the direction of *Gregg Kiely*. PTD is also evaluating the addition of another Planner III to support the growing number of transportation planning projects underway or anticipated.
- State Safety Oversight programs with Valley Metro Rail have developed an action plan for the 2006 calendar year and beginning to look at plans for pre-revenue testing and system startup, scheduled for December 2008. Time flies! For more information, contact *Scott Friedson*.
- Capital Life Cycle Programming: We have completed a first cut of a capital life cycle program for a rolling 10 year period to chart capital needs for both the 5310 and 5311 programs. This will enable us to better understand strategies to make investments and identify the barriers, constraints, or challenges surrounding those efforts. For more information, contact *Mark Hoffman*.

**CTAA announces technical assistance grants for rural and tribal transportation planning due by February 28,**

**2006:** CTAA is currently seeking applicants for its 2006 Technical Assistance Programs. Through the Programs, CTAA offers free hands-on technical assistance to rural communities and tribal organizations. The assistance can help start new transit programs, expand or enhance existing services, or develop facilities. Projects will stimulate economic development and small business growth. The Programs provide planning assistance only, from CTAA staff and consultants. Although CTAA cannot provide operating or capital funding through the Programs, potential funding sources for implementation will be identified.

- **Rural projects** must be located in communities of less than 50,000 population, and outside designated urbanized areas. Applicants must be for-profit or not-for-profit entities; potential governmental applicants should contact CTAA for further guidance.
- **Tribal applicants** must be Federally recognized tribal entities.

Applications are for long term projects and are due at CTAA by February 28, 2006. Long term projects will be selected competitively. CTAA also provides short term technical assistance; applications can be submitted at any time. For more information contact Charles Rutkowski at 202.299.6593, e-mail at [rutkowski@ctaa.org](mailto:rutkowski@ctaa.org), or visit CTAA's website at <http://www.ctaa.org/techassist/usda/index.asp>.

- Rural Announcement: <http://ctaa.org/techassist/Rural.TA.Announcement.2006.doc>
- Tribal Announcement: <http://ctaa.org/techassist/Tribal.TA.Announcement.2006.doc>

**Rural Transit Needs Study:** ADOT PTD staff is working on a sample scope of work to recommend for partnership funding with Rural COGS in order to complete a comprehensive rural transit needs study.

**Upcoming Arizona Public Transportation Events:** There are several important public transportation events in Arizona where we may cross paths: Contact *Liz Votino* or *Shandra Olsson* for information about any of these or other conferences:

- People on the Move, Easter Seals Project Action, Scottsdale, 2/8-9
- APTA (American Public Transportation Association) Marketing and Communications Workshop, Phoenix, 2/19-22
- Friends of Transit Annual Conference, Phoenix, 2/24
- AzTA (Arizona Transit Association) Annual Conference, including a Rail Symposium, 4/25-28

The ADOT PTD mission is to identify public transportation needs, and administer programs and resources to provide safe and reliable options for Arizona's communities. With your participation and help, we can do that. Don't hesitate to contact any of the PTD staff for information or direction in regard to your public transportation program needs.